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U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS

PA-768

APR 26 1967

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Making PANTS Longer or Shorter



Division of Home Economics
Federal Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

MAKING PANTS LONGER OR SHORTER

A 14-year-old boy needed dark trousers and a white shirt to report for his first job—at a local drive-in restaurant. Pants had been given to the family, but his mother didn't know how to make them fit the boy. She called the county Extension office. In 2 hours she learned how. The boy kept his job.

This booklet gives step-by-step directions on how to shorten pants and how to lengthen pants. It shows how to make a plain cuff, a false cuff, or a hem with no cuff. A cuff is practical for growing boys.

Do not try to lengthen durable press pants because old seams and creases will show. Look at the pants to see if there is a durable press label sewn inside the waistband. Some of these labels are: Koratron, Sta-Prest, Dan-Press, Penn-Prest, Burmi-Press, and Perma-Prest. These trade names are used only to help you know what to look for. Many other companies also make and sell durable press clothes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not recommend one kind more than another.

If durable press pants need to be shortened, you can cut off the cuff, shorten the pants, and sew the cuff back on.

Prepared by a committee headed by Alice Linn, Clothing Specialist, Division of Home Economics, Federal Extension Service, and Mrs. Eileen E. Gibson, Extension Textiles and Clothing Specialist, University of Missouri.

Measure First

Try the pants on the person.

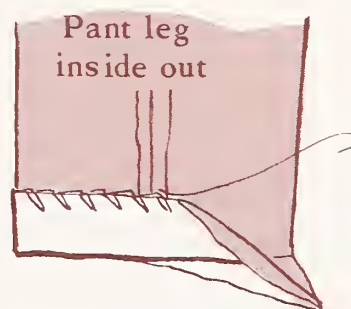
Make sure that the waist is not lower or pulled higher than he will ordinarily wear the pants.

Be sure the top of the pants fits before you lengthen or shorten them. Do you want to taper the pants legs? Do it before you shorten or lengthen them.

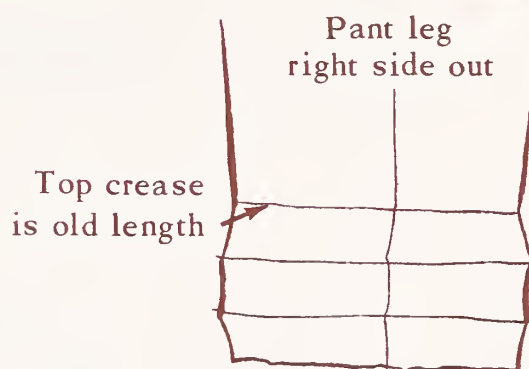
Decide how many inches you want to lengthen or shorten them.

Write this down.

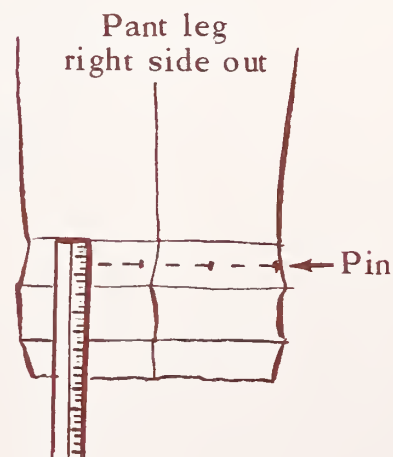
1. Turn the pant leg inside out. Pull out the thread holding the hem.



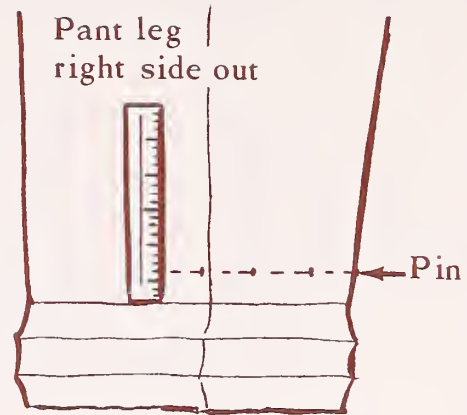
2. Turn the pant leg right side out. Pull it down full length. Look at the three creases. The top crease is the old length.



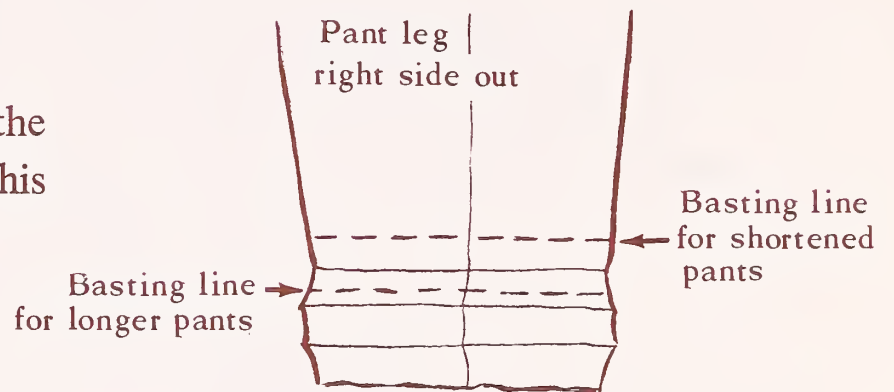
3. *To make pants longer:* Measure down from the top crease the length you want to add. Mark this length with pins all around the leg.



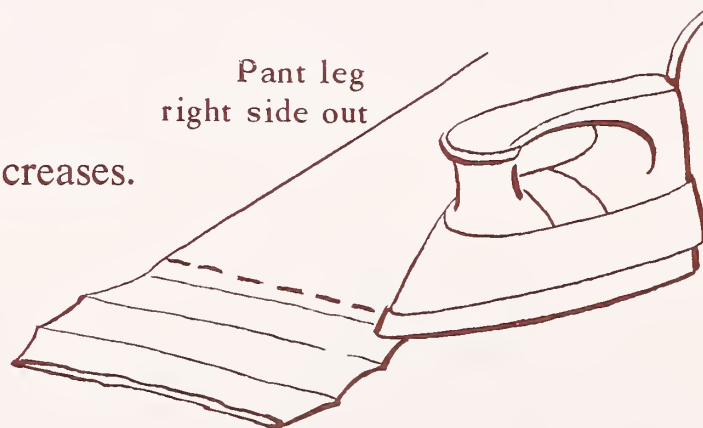
To make pants shorter:
Measure up from the top crease the length you want to take off. Mark this length with pins all around the leg, but do not cut.



4. Baste around the leg on the line marked by pins. This is the new length.

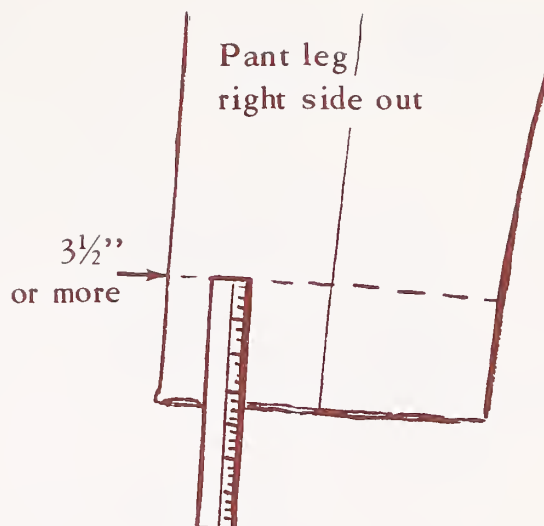


5. Press out the old creases.

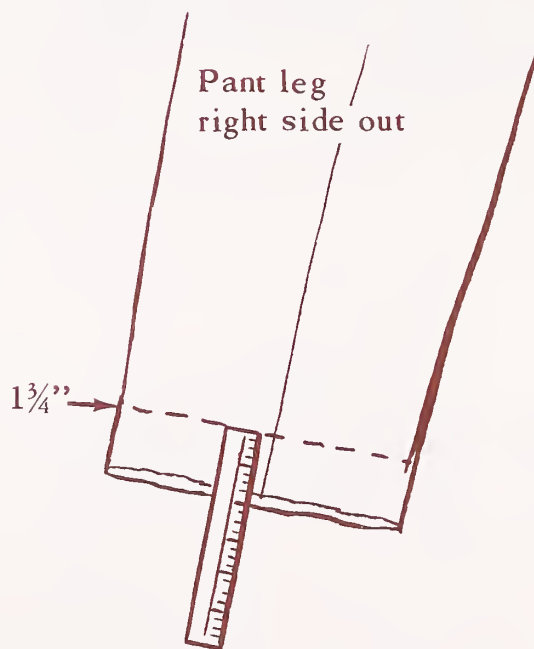


Decide About a Cuff

1. Measure from the basting line to the bottom of the pant leg. If you have $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches or more, you have enough cloth to make a cuff. Follow the directions for a plain cuff. (See page 6.)

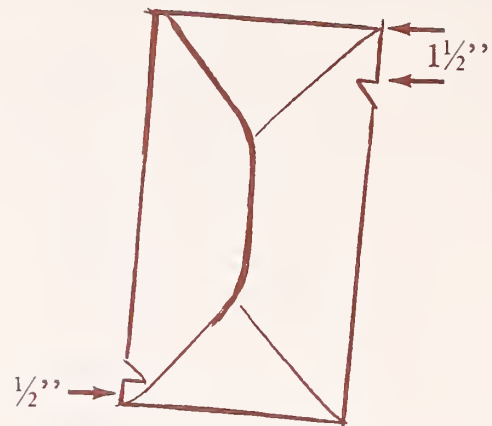


2. If you have $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches of cloth below the basting line, you have only enough cloth to make a false cuff. (See page 11.) If you don't want a cuff, see the directions on page 15.

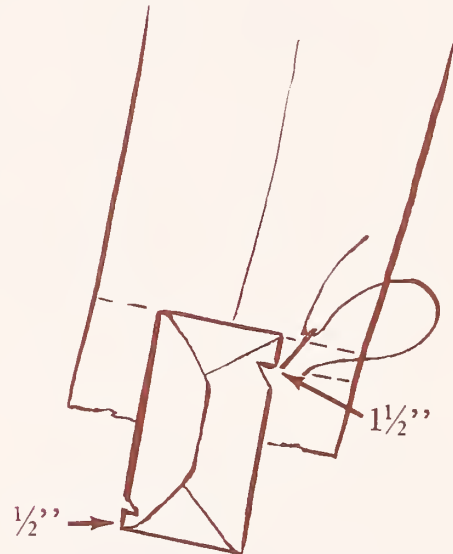


A Plain Cuff

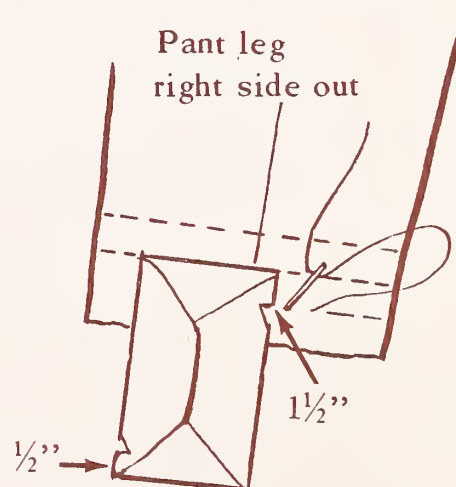
1. Make a 1½-inch marker. An old envelope is good. Mark ½-inch on another corner of the envelope.



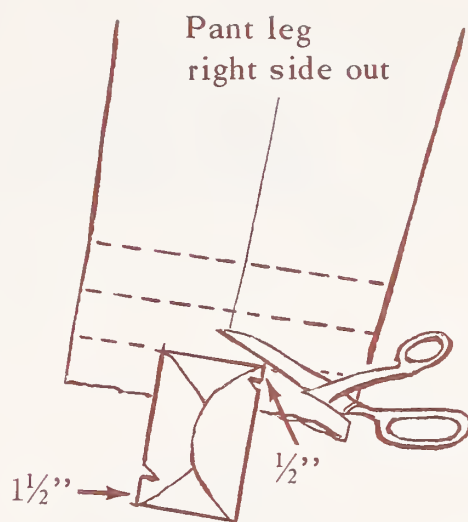
2. Baste around the pant leg 1½ inches below the first basting line.



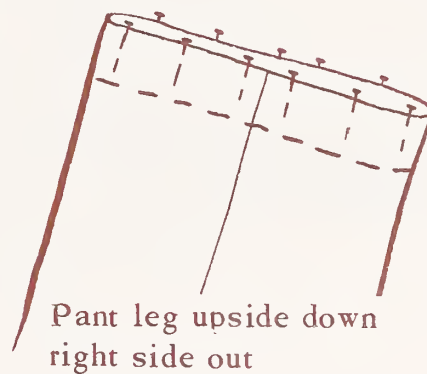
3. Make another basting line 1½ inches below the second line.



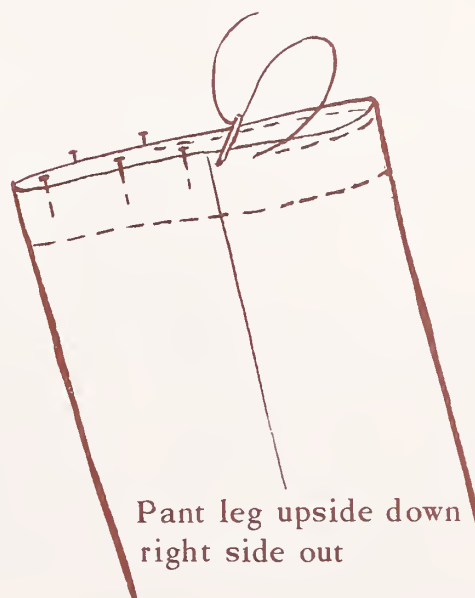
4. Trim off the cloth below the last basting line, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch. If there is enough cloth, leave 1 inch.



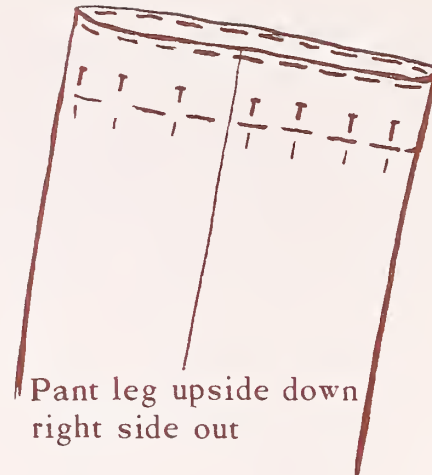
5. Turn the pant leg upside down. Fold along the *middle* basting line. Turn the edge inside the leg. Pin the fold.



6. Baste this fold in place.



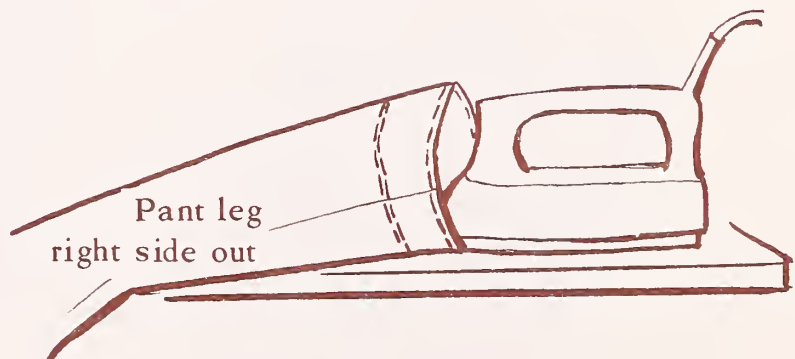
7. Pin along the lower basting line to catch the cloth you just turned inside. This makes a hem.



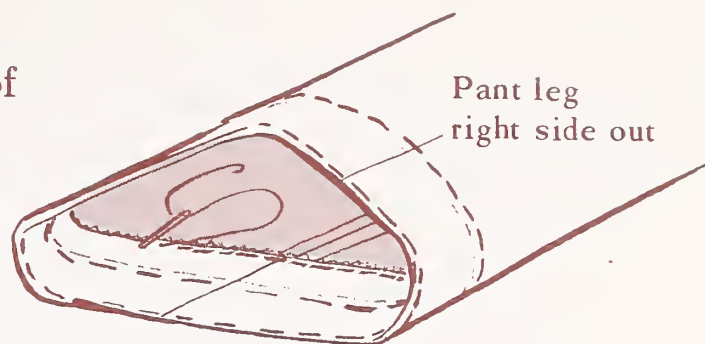
8. Baste through the hem on the basting line.



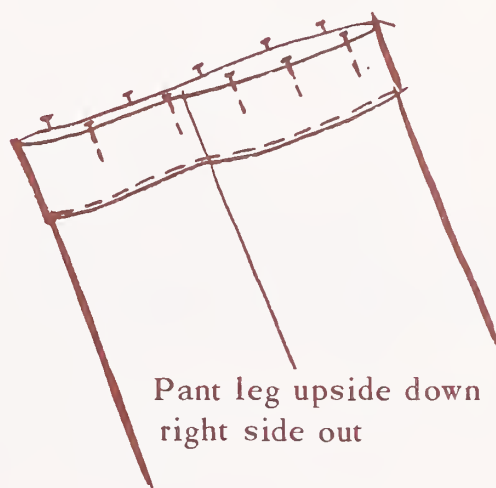
9. Press on the inside.



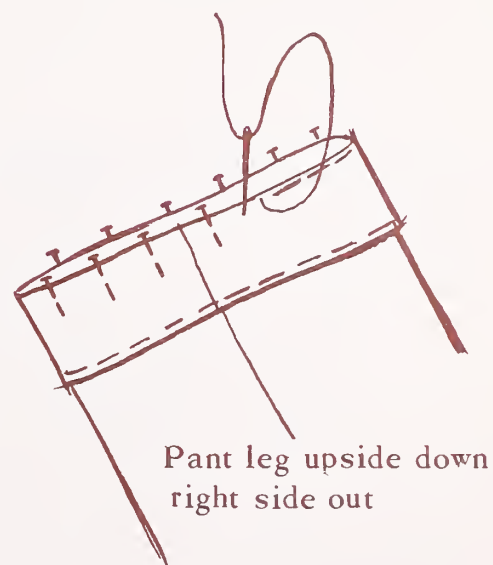
10. Stitch near the raw edge of the hem.



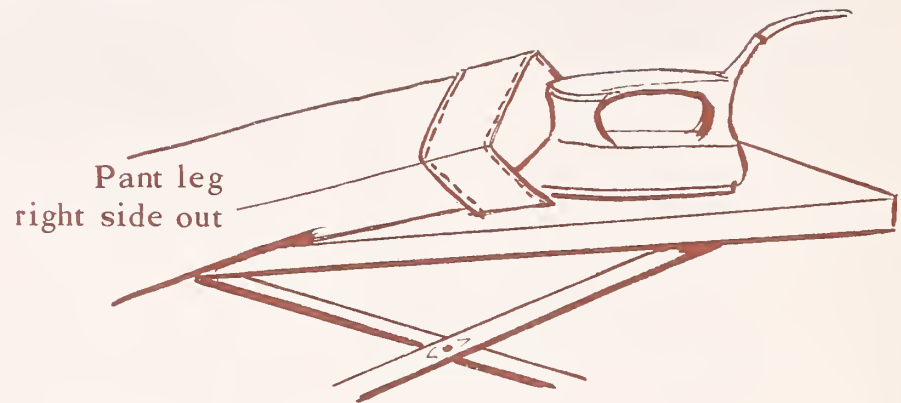
11. Turn the cuff back on the basting line. This is the new length. Pin it.



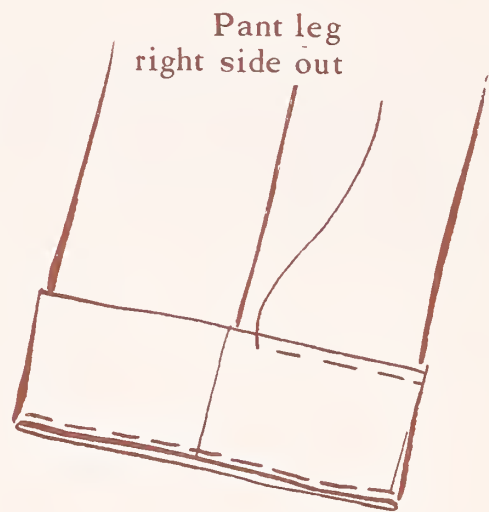
12. Baste over the pins, clear through.



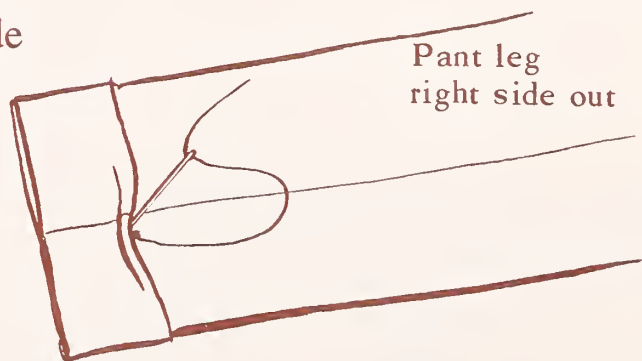
13. Take the pins out and press the cuff.



14. Remove all basting thread.

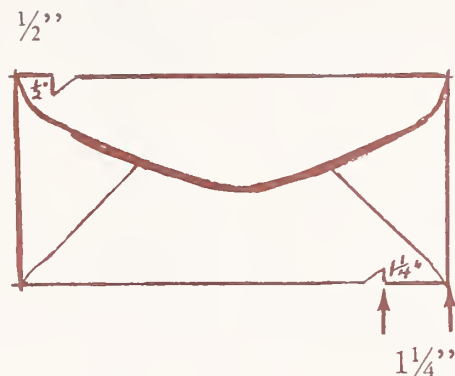


15. Tack the cuffs at the side seams.

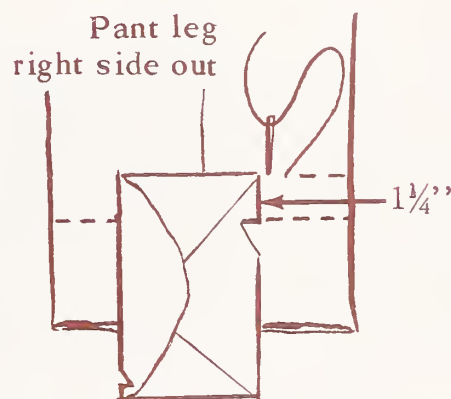


A False Cuff

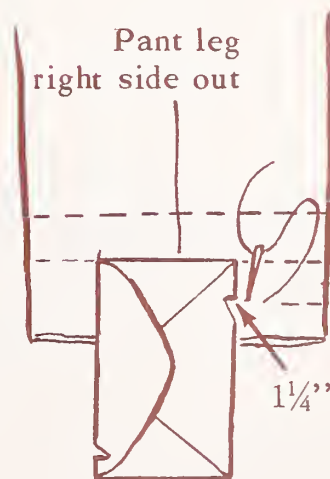
1. Make a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch marker. An old envelope is good. Mark $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on another corner of the envelope. Write the measurement by each marker.



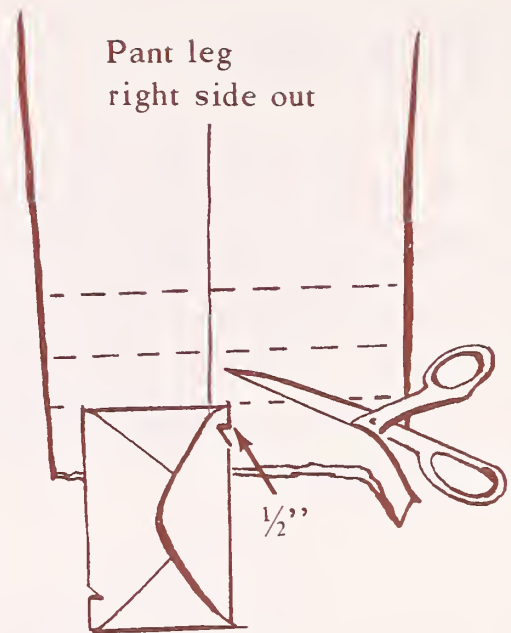
2. Baste around the pant leg. $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches above the first (new length) basting line.



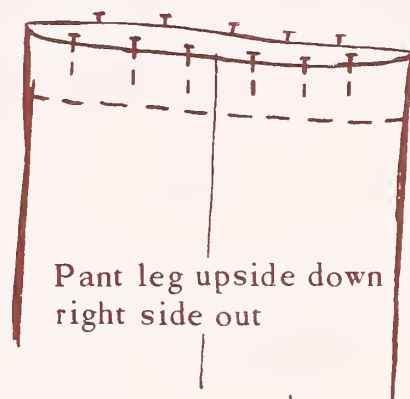
3. Make another basting line $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches below the first basting line.



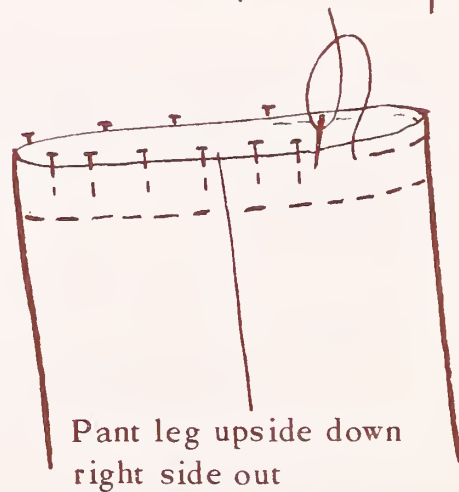
4. Trim off the cloth $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the bottom basting line.



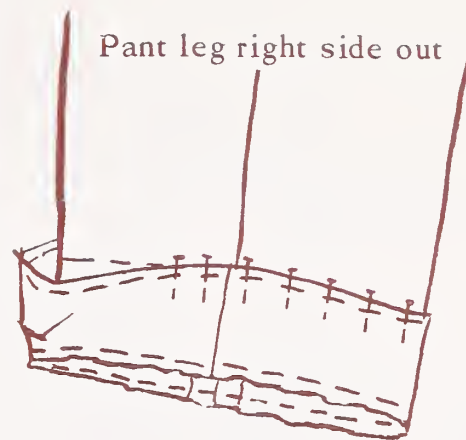
5. Turn the pant leg upside down. Fold along the middle basting line. Turn the edge inside the leg. Pin the fold.



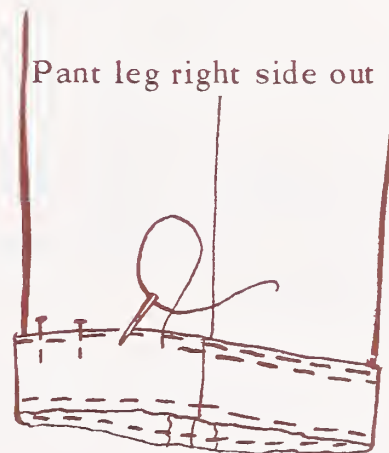
6. Baste over the pins, clear through.



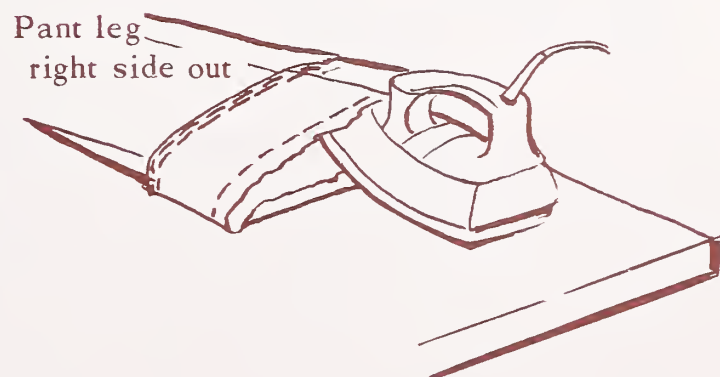
7. Turn the pant leg right side up. Pin the fold to the pant leg along the top basting line.



8. Baste the fold to the pant leg as it is pinned. Take out the pins. Press.



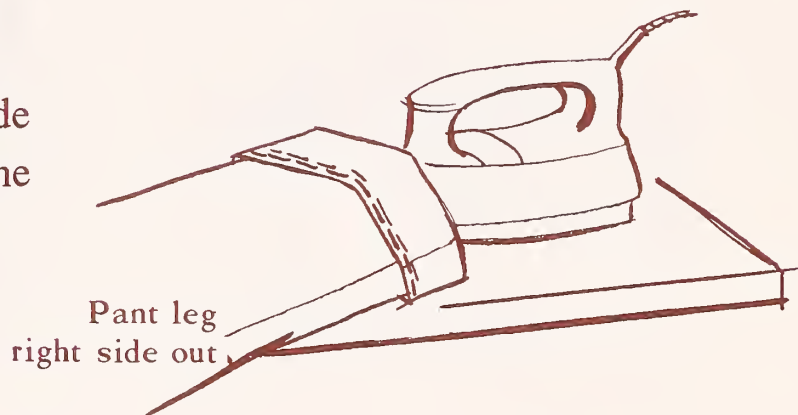
9. Press the raw edge under at the bottom basting line.



10. Turn the pant leg inside out. Turn pressed edge down to meet the fold. Hand stitch.



11. Turn the pant leg right side out. Press. Remove the basting threads.



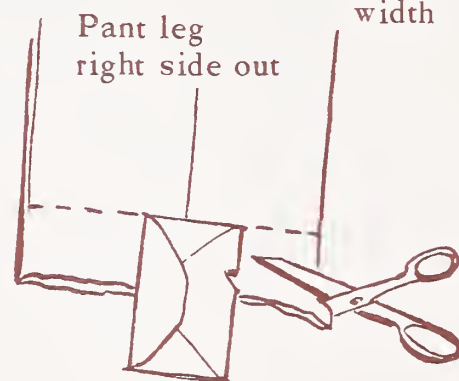
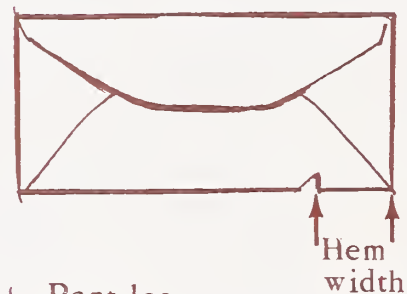
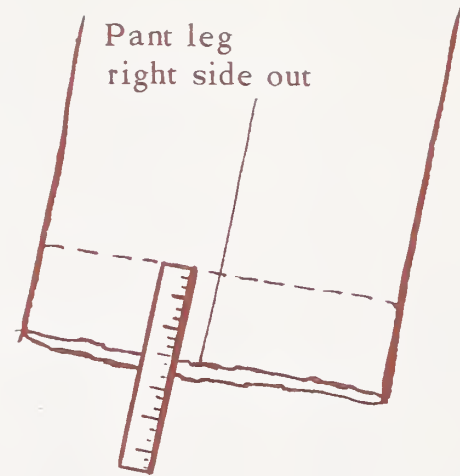
12. Tack the cuffs at the side seams.



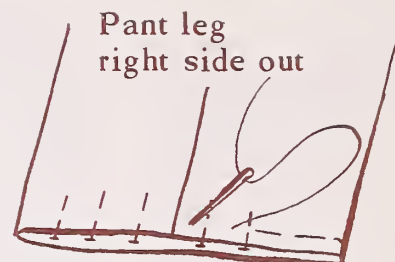
A Hem With No Cuff

Pants without cuffs just need hemming.

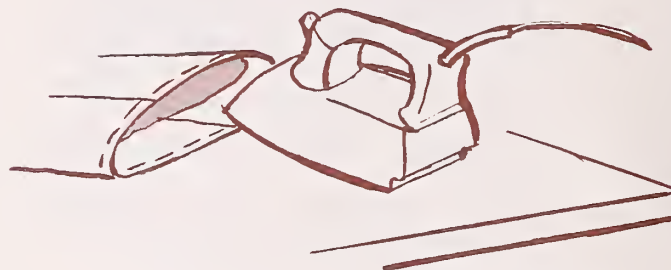
1. You have marked the new length with a basting line. Now find the shortest place from the raw edge to the basting. Measure this and write it down. This will be the width of the hem.
2. Make a marker the width you wrote down. An old envelope is good.
3. Trim the cloth at the bottom of the pant leg, using the marker.
4. Turn the hem up on the basting line to the inside of the pant leg. Pin the fold at the basting line.



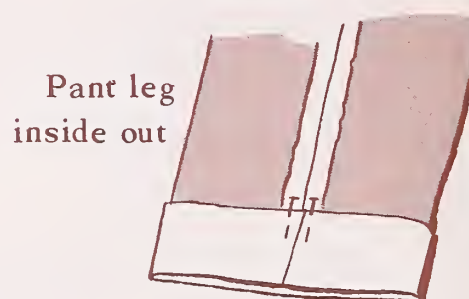
5. Baste over the pins along this fold.



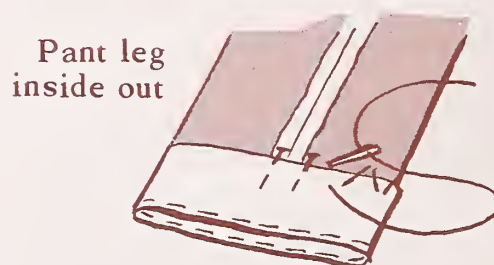
6. Take out the pins. Press.



7. Turn the pant leg inside out. Pin the top of the hem at both seams.



8. Hand stitch the hem.



9. Remove the basting threads.



September 1966